

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 196181

EXDIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS - 3

TAGS: PARM, UR, UR

SUBJECT: TBT/PNE: DEMARCHE TO DOBRYNIN

1. THE ATTACHED NOTE WAS GIVEN TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN ON AUGUST 5, EVENING, WASHINGTON TIME, WITH THE REQUEST THAT HE OBTAIN A RESPONSE FROM HIS GOVERNMENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ACCESS TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED PENDING THE SOVIET RESPONSE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE PRESIDENT HAS SUBMITTED THE TREATY ON THE LIMITATION OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST OF JULY 3, 1974, AND THE TREATY ON UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES OF MAY 28, 1975, TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION. WE CANNOT PREDICT HOW MUCH TIME THE RATIFICATION PROCESS WILL REQUIRE-. THEREFORE, WE WISH TO CONFIRM THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THE YIELD LIMITS

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CONTAINED IN THESE TWO TREATIES PENDING THEIR ENTRY INTO

FORCE, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USSR WILL ACT IN THE SAME WAY. WE PLAN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS UNDERSTANDING AT THIS TIME, BUT WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE A NEED TO MAKE THIS UNDERSTANDING KNOWN DURING THE RATIFICATION PROCESS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE U.S. SIDE NOTES THAT PRELIMINARY DATA FROM SOVIET TESTS OF JULY 4 AND JULY 29 INDICATE THAT THE YIELD OF BOTH TESTS MAY HAVE EXCEEDED 150 KT. END TEXT.

3. FYI. ASSESSMENT OF THE TWO SOVIET EXPLOSIONS IS UNDERWAY. AT PRESENT, US INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE JULY 4 EVENT HAD A RANGE OF 90-220 KT. HOWEVER, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF A HIGHER UPPER LIMIT, DEPENDING ON FINAL ASSESSMENT OF GEOLOGY OF TEST AREA. AS FOR THE JULY 29 SHOT, IT IS DEEMED A PNE. IF THE TEST OCCURRED IN SALT, AS WE CURRENTLY BELIEVE, IT COULD HAVE A RANGE OF 130-310 KT. OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE MOST PROBABLE VALUE OF THE FIRST SHOT IS 150 KT, AND 200 KT FOR THE SECOND SHOT. HABIB

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